



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE DEPORTS HONDURAN DEATH SQUAD LEADER

MIAMI—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced today that it has deported Honduran Army Lt. Col. Juan Lopez-Grijalba, a human rights violator linked to the kidnapping, torture and murder of approximately 184 people who disappeared in Honduras during the 1980s.

"ICE remains committed to ensuring the United States is not used as a safe haven for persecutors who brought death and misery upon others," said ICE Field Office Director Michael Rozos. "The officers, agents and attorneys of ICE continue to work closely to identify, arrest and deport these people who hide their past deeds by taking advantage of our immigration laws."

Lopez-Grijalba was head of the Honduran army intelligence Battalion 3-16 during the 1980s. Battalion 3-16 was a death squad charged with cracking down on perceived Honduran leftists. In addition, Lopez-Grijalba also led the Directorate of National Investigations (Direccion de Investigaciones Nacionales) and was later promoted to the head of military intelligence for the Honduran armed forces.

Lopez-Grijalba was arrested here in April 2002 after the Department of Homeland Security withdrew his Temporary Protected Status because of his involvement in serious non-political offenses prior to entering the United States.

ICE's Human Rights Violator Unit and the Human Rights Law Division investigated and presented the case.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.